AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration apparatus, comprising (a) a refrigerant circuit **(10)** for execution of a vapor compression refrigeration cycle including a compressor **(21)**, a heat source side heat exchanger **(24)**, and a utilization side heat exchanger **(33)** which are connected by a refrigerant pipe and (b) a contaminant recovery receptacle **(40)** which is connected to the suction side of the compressor **(21)** by an inflow pipe **(42)** and an outflow pipe **(43)**, for recovering contaminants in the recovery receptacle **(40)** by causing refrigerant to circulate in the refrigerant circuit **(10)** so that gaseous refrigerant flows into the recovery receptacle **(40)**,

wherein the inflow pipe **(42)** has an exit end which opens downwardly or obliquely downwardly in the recovery receptacle **(40)** while, on the other hand, the outflow pipe **(43)** has an entrance end which is situated above the exit end of the inflow pipe **(42)** in the recovery receptacle **(40)**, and

~~The refrigeration apparatus of claim 1~~

wherein a baffle plate **(44)** against contaminants is so disposed as to be situated face to face with the entrance end of the outflow pipe **(43)** at a predetermined distance apart therefrom in the recovery receptacle **(40)**.

3. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration apparatus, comprising (a) a refrigerant circuit **(10)** for execution of a vapor compression refrigeration cycle including a compressor **(21)**, a heat

source side heat exchanger **(24)**, and a utilization side heat exchanger **(33)** which are connected by a refrigerant pipe and (b) a contaminant recovery receptacle **(40)** which is connected to the suction side of the compressor **(21)** by an inflow pipe **(42)** and an outflow pipe **(43)**, for recovering contaminants in the recovery receptacle **(40)** by causing refrigerant to circulate in the refrigerant circuit **(10)** so that gaseous refrigerant flows into the recovery receptacle **(40)**,

wherein the inflow pipe **(42)** has an exit end which opens downwardly or obliquely downwardly in the recovery receptacle **(40)** while, on the other hand, the outflow pipe **(43)** has an entrance end which is situated above the exit end of the inflow pipe **(42)** in the recovery receptacle **(40)**, and

~~The refrigeration apparatus of claim 1~~ comprising switching means **(50)** for switching the circulation of refrigerant in the refrigerant circuit **(10)** so that the refrigerant is either circulated to flow through the recovery receptacle **(40)**, or circulated to bypass the recovery receptacle **(40)**,

wherein the switching means **(50)** is made up of:

opening/closing valves **(51, 52)** disposed, respectively, in the inflow and outflow pipes **(42, 43)** of the recovery receptacle **(40)**, and

an opening/closing valve **(53)** disposed between a connection part of the inflow pipe **(42)** and a connection part of the outflow pipe **(43)** of the recovery receptacle **(40)** in a refrigerant pipe on the suction side of the compressor **(21)**.

4. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration apparatus, comprising (a) a refrigerant circuit **(10)** for execution of a vapor compression refrigeration cycle including a compressor **(21)**, a heat source side heat exchanger **(24)**, and a utilization side heat exchanger **(33)** which are connected

by a refrigerant pipe and (b) a contaminant recovery receptacle **(40)** which is connected to the suction side of the compressor **(21)** by an inflow pipe **(42)** and an outflow pipe **(43)**, for recovering contaminants in the recovery receptacle **(40)** by causing refrigerant to circulate in the refrigerant circuit **(10)** so that gaseous refrigerant flows into the recovery receptacle **(40)**,

wherein the inflow pipe **(42)** has an exit end which opens downwardly or obliquely downwardly in the recovery receptacle **(40)** while, on the other hand, the outflow pipe **(43)** has an entrance end which is situated above the exit end of the inflow pipe **(42)** in the recovery receptacle **(40)**, and ~~The refrigeration apparatus of claim 1~~ wherein:

an auxiliary liquid for the recovery of contaminants is pre-stored in the recovery receptacle **(40)**, and

the exit end of the inflow pipe **(42)** of the recovery receptacle **(40)** is situated at a predetermined distance apart from the storage surface of the contaminant-recovery auxiliary liquid.

5. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration apparatus, comprising (a) a refrigerant circuit **(10)** for execution of a vapor compression refrigeration cycle including a compressor **(21)**, a heat source side heat exchanger **(24)**, and a utilization side heat exchanger **(33)** which are connected by a refrigerant pipe and (b) a contaminant recovery receptacle **(40)** which is connected to the suction side of the compressor **(21)** by an inflow pipe **(42)** and an outflow pipe **(43)**, for recovering contaminants in the recovery receptacle **(40)** by causing refrigerant to circulate in the refrigerant circuit **(10)** so that gaseous refrigerant flows into the recovery receptacle **(40)**,

wherein the inflow pipe **(42)** has an exit end which opens downwardly or obliquely downwardly in the recovery receptacle **(40)** while, on the other hand, the outflow pipe **(43)** has an entrance end which is situated above the exit end of the inflow pipe **(42)** in the recovery receptacle **(40)**, and ~~The refrigeration apparatus of claim 1~~ comprising:

preliminary operation means **(60)** for causing refrigerant to circulate in the refrigerant circuit **(10)** for a predetermined length of time so that a two-phase refrigerant mixture of liquid refrigerant and gas refrigerant flows into the recovery receptacle **(40)**, and

recovery operation means **(70)** for causing refrigerant to circulate in the refrigerant circuit **(10)** so that upon completion of the operation of the preliminary operation means **(60)**, gaseous refrigerant flows into the recovery receptacle **(40)**.

6. (Original) The refrigeration apparatus of claim 5 wherein the preliminary operation means **(60)** increases the degree of opening of an expansion valve **(32)** disposed between the heat source side heat exchanger **(24)** and the utilization side heat exchanger **(33)**.

7. (Original) The refrigeration apparatus of claim 5 wherein the preliminary operation means **(60)** stops a utilization side fan of the utilization side heat exchanger **(33)**.

8. (Original) The refrigeration apparatus of claim 5 wherein the preliminary operation means **(60)** lowers the frequency of the compressor **(21)** to below a predetermined value.